



Complete Set of Pending Claims

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1. A drug delivery composition (for delivering a drug to the colonic region) comprising a starch capsule containing the drug and wherein the starch capsule is provided with a coating (such that the drug is predominantly released from the capsule in the colon and/or terminal ileum).
2. A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 wherein the coating comprises a material which dissolves at a pH of 5 or above.
3. A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 wherein the coating comprises a material which is redox-sensitive.
4. A drug delivery composition according to claim 3 wherein the coating comprises an azopolymer or a disulphide polymer.
5. A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 wherein the coating comprises a material which is degraded by enzymes or bacteria present in the colon.
6. A drug delivery composition according to claim 2 wherein the coating comprises methylmethacrylate or a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate.
7. A drug delivery composition according to claim 2 wherein the coating comprises a cellulose ester.
8. A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 wherein the coating has a thickness in the range of 80 μm to 300 μm .
9. A drug delivery according to claim 1 wherein the drug is one which acts locally in the colon.

10. A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 wherein the drug is for systemic delivery and systemic action.

11. A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 wherein the drug is a vaccine for delivery to the lymphoid tissue of the colon.

12. A method of delivering a drug to the colonic region of a human or mammal comprising orally administering a drug delivery composition comprising a starch capsule containing the drug and wherein the starch capsule is provided with a coating such that the drug is predominantly released from the capsule in the colon and/or terminal ileum.

13. A method of delivering a vaccine to the lymphoid tissue present in the colon of a human or mammal comprising orally administering a drug delivery composition comprising a starch capsule containing the vaccine and wherein the starch capsule is provided with a coating such that the vaccine is predominantly released from the capsule in the colon and/or terminal ileum.

14. (New) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of a steroid, a laxative, an anticholinergic, an opioid, a calcium channel blocker, a thromboxane A₂ synthetase inhibitor, and a 5 HT₃-antagonist.

15. (New) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of a deoxyribonucleic acid molecule and an antibody against infectious bacteria.

16. (New) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of hydrocortisone, octreotide, cisapride, glucosamine, ridogrel, odansetron, and 5-ASA.

17. (New) A drug delivery composition according to claim 1, wherein the drug is budesonide.